

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 IO-03 EUR-10 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03

DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DPW-01 L-02

PRS-01 INRE-00 AID-10 RSR-01 SSO-00 NEA-06 /086 W

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O R 311130Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6649

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

CDRUSAAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO/SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 15753

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: SITREP

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY AS OF 1800 AUGUST 31, AND COVERS THE PERIOD SINCE THE LAST SITREP AUGUST 29.

SUMMARY

MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS ON THE INCREASE IN RECENTLY QUIESCENT MR 3 AND CONTINUED AT RELATIVELY HIGH LEVELS ELSEWHERE, BUT THERE WERE NO SUSTAINED OR MAJOR ENGAGEMENTS REPORTED FROM ANY REGION. THE ENEMY HAVE POSITIONED A MAJOR ARTILLERY UNIT IN THE HILLS JUST WEST OF PHU BA, SOUTH OF HUE. ARVN UNIT ROTATION IS PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY

AROUND TRUNG NGHIA. QUANG DUC RF HAVE INITIATED ACTION TO RETAKE THREE BORDER OUTPOSTS LOST AFTER THE CEASE-FIRE. THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY IN THE DELTA WAS CONFINED TO THE TRI PHAP AREA OF DINH TUONG-KIEN TUONG. END SUMMARY

PART I: ICCS

HOMEWARD BOUND MEMBERS OF THE ROTATING HUNGARIAN DELEGATION ARE LEAVING AT THE RATE OF TEN A WEEK ON THE SAIGON-HANOI LIAISON FLIGHTS. TWENTY HAVE LEFT SO FAR, AND TEN MORE ARE SCHEDULED TO DEPART NEXT FRIDAY. MEANWHILE, THE IRANIAN ADVANCE TEAM IS RECEIVING A THOUGH ORIENTATION IN A COMPREHENSIVE ROUND OF MEETINGS AND BRIEFINGS ARRANGED BY THE ICCS SECRETARIAT.

PART II: FPJMT

THE FPJMT IN ITS AUGUST 30 SESSION CONTINUED TO WRESTLE WITH THE ISSUE OF CONSTRUCTING CEMETERIES AND MEMORIALS. THE POSITIONS OF THE DRV/PRG AND THE RVN CONTINUE TO BE INFLEXIBLE ON THIS ISSUE.

PART III: MR 1

1. MR 1 REPORTS 35 CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS, MORE THAN HALF OF THEM ENEMY ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF). THE GVN LOST 11 KIA, ONE MIA, AND 53 WIA. VC/NVA LOSSES WERE 12 KIA AND TWO RETURNEES.

2. TWO BRIDGES ON Q.L. 1 IN QUANG NAM PROVINCE WERE DAMAGED EARLY IN THE MORNING OF AUGUST 31. ONE BRIDGE HAS BEEN RESTORED TO FULL USE, BUT THE OTHER IS LIMITED TO ONE-WAY TRAFFIC AND WILL REQUIRE MAJOR REPAIRS.

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3. THE SITUATION AROUND BACH NA MOUNTAIN REMAINS UNCHANGED WITH NO FURTHER PROGRESS IN ROAD CONSTRUCTION. THE SOLE ATTEMPT DURING THE WEEK TO RESUPPLY THE RF BATTALION ATOP THE MOUNTAIN WAS ABANDONED AFTER THE HELICOPTER RECEIVED GROUNDFIRE.

4. A VIET-CONG THUA THIEN PROVINCE MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 20 REPORTEDLY OUTLINED VC STRATEGY IN THE AREA DURING THE COMING RAINY SEASON. IN BRIEF, THIS CONSISTS OF CONTINUING TO CONTROL

UPLAND JUNGLE AREAS, TAKING THOSE OUTPOSTS IN THESE AREAS STILL IN ARVN POSSESSION, HARASSING GVN LOC'S, AND OBTAINING RICE AND OTHER GOODS FROM PHU LOC DISTRICT.

PART IV: MR 2

1. HOSTILITIES IN MR 2 OVER THE PAST 48 HOURS REMAINED HIGH. THERE WERE 36 INCIDENTS REPORTED, MOST OF THEM IN KONTUM AND BINH DINH, AND MOST OF THEM CONSISTING OF ENEMY ABF. CASUALTIES: VC/NVA: 56 KIA; RVNAF: 9 KIA, 30 WIA, AND THREE MIA. THERE WERE 48 AIR STRIKES ON AUG 29, AND 8 ON AUG 30.

2. ON THE KONTUM FRONT, THE REPLACEMENT OF THE 45TH REGT BY THE 42ND REGT REPORTED IN THE AUG 29 SITREP IS NOT YET COMPLETED, BUT OUR CONSUL THERE REPORTS NO SNAGS IN THE OPERATION. AN ENEMY GROUND ASSULT ON THE 3RD BN OF THE 45REGT 10 KM WEST NORTHWEST OF KONTUM CITY RESULTED IN 18 ENEMY KIA, ONE RVNAF KIA AND FOUR WIA.

3. CONGEN POLITICAL OFFICER AND QUANG DUC PROV REP VISITED THE RF OUTPOST AT BU BON CAMP ON THE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 30. ELEMENTS OF TWO RF BATTALIONS HAD BEEN SENT OUT FROM THE BASE THE DAY BEFORE IN AN OPERATION DESIGNED TO RETAKE THREE BORDER RF OUTPOSTS 10 KMS EAST OF BU PRANG WHICH WERE TAKEN BY THE ENEMY AFTER THE CEASE-FIRE. THEY WERE IN CONTACT THE AFTERNOON OF AUG 30, AND WERE SUPPORTED BY ARTILLERY FIRED FROM BU BON. SECTOR S-2 BELIEVES THE ENEMY ARE GUARDING AN IMPORTANT LINK IN THEIR SUPPLY ROUTE AND CAN DRAW ON CONSIDERABLE RESERVES IN CAMBODIA. IF THIS IS SO, THE UNITS, WHICH ARE OVER HALF WAY TO THEIR OBJECTIVES, MIGHT WELL RUN INTO MUCH HEAVIER RESISTANCE THAN THEY HAVE EXPERIENCED SO FAR. CURRENTLY AVAILABLE REINFORCEMENTS IN QUANG DUC ARE LIMITED TO THE TWO OTHER PROVINCE RF BATTALIONS.V

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4. SINCE EARLY MAY, THE SOUTHWESTERN CORNER OF QUANG DUC HAS SEEN MILITARY ACTION WHICH, IF NOT COMPARABLE TO FRONT-FURNER ACTIVITY IN KONTUM, BINH DINH, PLEIKU AND PHU YEN, HAS INDICATED THE AREA IS OF CONSIDERABLE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE TO THE ENEMY. MILITARY ACTIVITY MAY FLARE  
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